

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00012 032009Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8235

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0012

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS GJ

SUBJ: GRENADIAN PM GAIRY CHALLENGES CRITICS

REF: BTN A-131 (NOV 19, 1974)

1. IN NEW YEAR'S DAY MESSAGE, BROADCAST NATION-WIDE, GRENADIAN PM ERIC M. GAIRY SHOWED HIMSELF UNCHASTENED BY EITHER CRITICISM OF HIS REGIME OR DETERIORATION OF ECONOMY UNDER HIS AEGIS. HE BOASTED OF THE (LARGELY NON-EXISTENT) ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS REGIME IN THE 11 MONTHS OF HIS COUNTRY'S INDEPENDENCE, ANNOUNCED THAT HE INTENDED TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THE GRENADA POLICE AND DEFENSE FORCES, DEFENDED HIS MUCH-CRITICIZED ACTION IN HAVING A 50-FOOT, ILLUMINATED "GRAND CROSS" ERECTED ATOP ST GEORGE'S RICHMOND HILL, AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, REFERRED PUBLICLY TO THE DUFFUS COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED POLICE BRUTALITY AND BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER IN GRENADA BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND MARCH 1, 1974. "THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION," HE DECLARED, "WILL NOT BE A COURT DECISION BUT SIMPLY A DOCUMENT THAT WILL COME TO ASSIST AND ADVISE MY GOVERNMENT ALONG CERTAIN LINES." HE ADDED, "THOSE LABORING UNDER A COMPLETE MISAPPREHENSION OF THE PURPOSE OF THE DUFFUS INQUIRY SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT GRENADA IS A FULLY INDEPENDENT NATION."

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2. COMMENT: GAIRY HAS UNMISTAKABLY THROWN DOWN THE

GAUNTLET. ANY HOPE THAT FEAR OF RENEWED VIOLENCE MIGHT FORCE HIM TO TAKE A CONCILIATORY STANCE TOWARD HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS AND CARRY OUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DUFFUS COMMISSION REPORT HAS BEEN SHATTERED. GAIRY HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT REGARD THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS AS BINDING UPON HIM OR HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT, HAVING INCREASED HIS SECURITY FORCES (ACCORDING TO SOME EMBASSY SOURCES, THE DEFENSE FORCE NOW NUMBERS 600), HE IS PREPARED TO MEET ANY CHALLENGE TO THAT POSITION.

SIMMS

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Message Attributes

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